Attorney Docket No. 24935D

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of improving a paved surface comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a layer of liquefied asphalt on a surface;

(b) applying a mat on the surface, the mat comprising a nonwoven mat produced from a mixture of mineral fibers and polymer fibers, the fibers having a melting point above 330°F (177°C), the liquefied asphalt penetrating and soaking the mat; and

(c) applying a layer of paving material over the mat;

wherein the mat in step (b) has a load-elongation property such that the mat achieves at least 90% of its ultimate load at an elongation not greater than 5% of the mat length in the direction of applied tensile stress.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19 wherein the fibers have a melting point of at least about 350°F (177°C).

23-42. (Canceled)

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43. (Currently amended) A method of improving a paved surface comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a layer of liquefied asphalt on a surface;

(b) applying a mat on the surface, the mat comprising a nonwoven mat produced from a mixture of mineral fibers and polymer fibers, the fibers having a melting point above 330°F (177°C), the liquefied asphalt penetrating and soaking the mat; and

(c) applying a layer of paving material over the mat;

wherein the mat in step (b) has a load-elongation property such that the mat achieves at least 90% of its ultimate load at an elongation not greater than 5% of the mat length in the direction of applied tensile stress; and

wherein the mat in step (b) is has a resistant to shrinkage resistance property such that when a 4 ounce (113.4 gram) sample of the mat is held in an oven at 325°F (163°C) for one minute, the area of the mat is reduced to not less than about 90% of its original area.

44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 43 wherein the fibers have a melting point of at least about 350°F (177°C).

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